

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Honorable John W. McCormack  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

There is forwarded herewith a draft of proposed legislation, "To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize language training to be given to a dependent of a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps under certain circumstances."

This proposal is a part of the Department of Defense Legislative Program for the 89th Congress, and the Bureau of the Budget advises that the proposal is in accord with the program of the President. The Department of the Army has been designated the representative of the Department of Defense for this legislation. It is recommended that this proposal be enacted by Congress.

Purpose of the Legislation

The proposed legislation would authorize language training to be provided to the dependents of a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps in anticipation of the member's assignment to permanent duty outside the United States or while they are accompanying the member outside the United States as a result of the member's assignment to such duty.

Dependents of members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps perform an important role in projecting a proper image of the United States abroad. Their ability to speak the language of the country concerned increases the effectiveness of their military sponsor and generates inestimable good will for the United States. This has been recognized by Congress in enacting section 701 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended (22 U.S.C. 1041), which provides that the Secretary of State may "provide appropriate orientation and language training to members of family of officers and employees of the Government in anticipation of the assignment abroad of such officers' and employees or while abroad."

Although section 701 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946 authorizes language training for dependents of members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps under the circumstances contemplated by the proposed legislation, the facilities of the Foreign Service Institute established in the United States under that section are located only in

the Washington, D.C., area. On the other hand, facilities of the Department of Defense are located at various places in the United States and include the Defense Language Institute, West Coast Branch (formerly the United States Army Language School) at Monterey, California, and other Department of Defense education centers. These facilities are generally used to provide language training, when appropriate, to members of the Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps in anticipation of their assignment to permanent duty outside the United States. It is the opinion of the Department of Defense that it would be in the best interests of the Department, and of the members and their dependents, for the members and their dependents to be provided language training at the same time and at the same place. So far as the Department is concerned, the inflexible requirement that dependents be provided language training only at the Foreign Service Institute would generate greater transportation costs than those generated by having a number of locations, including the Foreign Service Institute, to which members and their dependents may be sent for such training. So far as the members and their dependents are concerned, the advantages of preserving the integrity of the family unit are obvious.

To cover those instances in which it may not be possible to provide language training to dependents in the United States, but it is desirable that the dependents be provided that training, the proposed legislation would authorize the training to be given outside the United States.

Cost and Budget Data

Although the attached draft legislation would authorize the training of any dependent of a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps, it is the present intention of the Department of Defense to confine its use to the enrolling of wives in the United States in existing long, full-time courses that are suitable for them and for their Servicemen husbands. At a later date after FY 65 when new, short full-time and longer part-time course offerings are available for personnel overseas, it is proposed that the authority be used to permit enrollment of wives in these courses as well.

<u>Trainees</u>	<u>Average Annual Input</u>	<u>First Year Costs</u>	<u>Average Annual Recurring Costs</u>
Priority to Wives of Attaches, MAAG/ Mission Personnel and International Hq Personnel	750	\$200,000	\$200,000

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

Draft bill